



United States Department of Agriculture

2014

Farm Bill

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



2008 Farm Bill – Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Statutory Requirements
- What we did
- Accomplishments

Statutory Requirements:

- 5% of Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars set-aside for beginning farmers and ranchers.
- 5% of Conservation Stewardship Program acres set-aside for beginning farmers and ranchers.

What NRCS Did:

- Established beginning farmer and rancher funding pools.
- Outreach and education



Accomplishments 2009-2013:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars to all groups: \$3,985,297,009.

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: \$712,726,976
(18%)

Conservation Stewardship Program acres to all groups: 56,763,962 acres.

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: 2,935,639
(5%)

Accomplishments for all programs.

Agricultural Management Assistance Program
 Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
 Chesapeake Bay Program
 Conservation Stewardship Program
 Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

All groups: \$6,831,648,375.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: \$921,307,199
 (13%)

2014 Farm Bill Programs

Financial Assistance

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program

AMA – Agricultural Management Assistance Program

Easements

ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

HFRP – Healthy Forests Reserve Program



Programs

Partnerships

RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Other

VPAHIP – Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

CIG – Conservation Innovation Grants

ACES – Agricultural Conservation Experience Services Program

Implications

- **Administration/Paperwork**
- **Regional Conservation Priorities**
- **Special Emphasis Applicants**
- **Resource Concern Focus**

Four Major Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Program Changes:

- Merging EQIP and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Raises the payment limitation to \$450K limitation for all contracts entered into FY 2014-2018
- Veteran farmers and ranchers eligible for special payment rates and funding tools

EQIP: Conservation Innovation Grants



Conservation Stewardship Program



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



FRPP



GRP



WRP

ACEP

Agricultural Land Easement Component

- Allows landowner donations for ALE, if the entity provides at least 50% of what the Secretary is contributing.
- Limits Federal share to not exceed 50% of the fair market value of the easement.
- Allows the Federal share to up to 75% for grasslands of special environment significance.
- Prohibits bidding down.

ACEP

Wetland Reserve Easement Component

- Establishes ownership requirement prior to enrollment of 2 years.
- Authorizes waiver process to allow enrollment of CRP land established to trees.
- No option to enroll stand-alone restoration cost-share agreements.

Healthy Forests Reserve Program



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Eligible Producers

Producer Contracts

Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Eligible Partners

Partnership Agreements

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- May adjust discretionary rules of covered program if requested by partner and approved by NRCS
- Receives mandatory funding plus 7% of covered programs funding or acres
- No funding may be used for partner administrative costs

Agricultural Management Assistance Program





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www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill